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UNCLAS OSLO 000584

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DEPARTMENT FOR IO/T

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [TBIO](#) [WHO](#) [NO](#)  
SUBJECT: NORWAY SUPPORTS MAINTAINING SMALLPOX STOCKS

REF: STATE 71569

(SBU) On May 5 we delivered reftel demarche to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Desk Officer for UN Health Affairs Stein Nesvag. Nesvag said that Norway had been backing official retention of smallpox virus stocks for some time and he saw no change in their position in the World Health Assembly. Nesvag noted that Norwegians see research on smallpox as a global public good, the results of which they feel should be open and shared, not patented. In addition to continued open research, Norwegians are interested in reviewing the financing of laboratory inspections. Norwegians would like to see inspections funded with regular WHO funds. Finally, Norwegians are also interested in broadening the WHA advisory committee to ensure that views of member states outside U.S., Russia, and EU are heard.

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